EDWARDS, ELIZABETH - NINIAN DRAWER 2 TODD RELATIVES

71. 2009. 085 04674

Todd Family

Elizabeth & Ninian Edwards

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

MRS. NINIAN W. EDWARDS.

From a painting by Healy, owned by her son, Mr. A. S. Edwards, Springfield, Illinois. Mrs. Ninian W. Edwards was a sister of Mrs. Lincoln. Her maiden name was Elizabeth P. Todd. She was born at Lexington, Kentucky, in 1813, and died at Springfield, Illinois, her home since 1835, February 22, 1888.

Virginia, Ills.
June 7th, 1909.

H. E. Barker;

My Dear Sir: The pamphlet I mentioned to you this morning is entitled "Historic Sketches of the Edwards & Todd Families & their descendents", written by Georgie Hortense Edwards, & published at Springfield, Ills., in 1894, by H. W. Rokker." I find in it - on page 20 - that "Julia C., daughter of Ninian W. Edwards, was married June 3d, 1855, to Edward L. Baker, who was born in Kaskaskia June 3d 1829." She was born April 29, 1837. "His father Hon. David J. Baker, was a native of the State of New York, & came to Illinois in 1818.

It is strange that you have missed this historic monograph in getting up your collection.

Sincerely yours, &c.,

J. F. Snyder.

"LEST WE FORGET"

EMINENT EARLY KENTUCKIANS

Furnished Through the Courtesy of
ARNDT M. STICKLES, Ph. D.
History Department.
WESTERN KENTUCKY TEACHERS COLLEGE
BOWLING GREEN, KY.

Springfield, Tenn. 2-8-34

NINIAN EDWARDS

(By J. H. Poteet, Ph. D.)

Ninian Edwards, son of Benjamin and Margaret Beall Edwards, was born in Montgomery County, Maryland, March 17, 1775. His father was prominent in the Maryland legislature and in Congress. An uncle, John Edwards, was one of the founders of the State of Kentucky and one of her first United States Senators. His early education was received under private tutors, of whom the most prominent was William Wirt who remained his life-long friend. He attended Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, giving special attention to law and medicine.

From 1795 to 1809 he resided in Kentucky. At the age of twenty he came to Nelson County to take charge of a tract of land belonging to his father. In 1796, and again in 1798, he represented Nelson County in the Kentucky House of Representatives. In 1798 he moved to Russellville, Logan County, to practice law, which quickly brought him wealth. His ability as a lawyer was recognized by his appointment as judge of the first Circuit Court in Logan County. In 1806 he offered hmiself for Congress against Matthew Lyons, but withdrew to accept the fourth judgeship of the Court of Appeals. He was made Chief Justice of this court in 1808. During his stay in Kentucky he was an earnest patron of education.

In 1809 he became governor of the newly created Territory of Illinois, which post he held until its admission into the Union in 1818. During the War of 1812 he personally directed the defense of Illinois Territory. He represented the State of Illinois in the United States Senate from 1818 to 1824. Despite the fact that he said Congress had no constitutional right to restrict slavery in territories, he voted for the Missouri Compromise. In 1824 he accepted the post of Minister to Mexico, but was forced to resign because of a controversy with William H. Crawford. During the later period of his life he was a warm friend to John C. Calhoun, whose spokesman, Duff Green, was his brother-in-law. In 1826, in a three-cornered race, he was elected the third governor of Illinois by a small majority. He withdrew from public life in 1830, but later entered the race for the National House of Representatives. However, in a five-cornered race, he was defeated, his first and only defeat by the electorate. He died of cholera on July 20, 1833, in Belleville, Illinois.

Ninian Edwards had acknowledged talents, was an eloquest orator, and had decided aristocratic tastes. In spite of his great qualities, he was lacking in prudence and in tact.

BEN HARDIN

(By Mrs. Mary Owen Miller, Graduate Student.)

Ben Hardin was born February 29, 1784, at George's Creek Settlement, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. His parents were Benjamin and Sarah Hardin, who were cousins and both natives of Virginia. The family moved to Kentucky in 1788, stopping a short while in Nelson, and finally settling in Washington County on a farm near Springfield.

He received his education in small, private schools. The only teacher who seems to have exerted any influence in his life was an Irishman named Barry, whom he followed to Hartford in Ohio County where he assisted in teaching English. He read law under his kinsman, Martin Hardin, at Richmond, and with Felix Grundy at Bardstown.

Ben Hardin's real business was the practice of law, for which he was well-fitted. He figured in many prominent cases, and was well-known for his logical reasoning, his wit, and his biting sarcasm. Between 1810 and 1850 he held a number of political offices. He served as Commonwealth's Attorney; as a member of the Kentucky legislature for five terms, two of which were in the Senate; as a Congressman for five terms; and as Secretary of State under Governor Owsley for two years. He was an important leader of the Old Court Party during the court struggle in Kentucky, an influential member of the State Constitutional Convention of 1849, and a presidential elector for Clay in both 1832 and 1844.

In 1807, Hardin married Elizabeth Pendleton, and to this union there were born seven children. For a short time after his marriage he resided in Elizabethtown . He later moved to Bardstown, where he enjoyed a happy and prosperous home life until his death in 1852. He lies buried in Washington County by the side of his parents. Lawyers today honor his memory as one of the great leaders of that distinguished group that made the Bardstown bar famous.

(Next week, John Rowan)

P.S. Sub to H E Barker aug 6 1939

If your collecting ever permits you to discover it, I should like to locate a letter which was lost strayed or stolen from our family papers: it will be interesting to read and also to trace. It was from Robert S. Todd to Ninian W. Edwards, asking Edwards his opinion of Lincoln as to marrying Todd's daughter Mary. We had this, loaned it (I think) to someone related to the Osborne family of Illinois; and it never came back.

P R Baker
633 Twin Palms Drive
San Gabriel Cal.

The Christian Science Monitor
February 9, 1961

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1961

Mary Todd Marries A. Lincoln

(According to her sister, Mrs. Ninian Edwards, of Springfield, Illinois, 1842.)

Molly was always stubborn. She was born
a rebel—saucy, nervous, whimsical.
She did not know her mind. We tried to warn
her of the consequences, logical
and pitiful to one so gently bred,
dainty and petted. He is mighty rough
slack-skinned, lank, clumsy, with a craggy head
of coarse black hair. But she got in a huff
when we said anything. Is it not odd
her eyes would shine with anger when I'd say,
"Mary, do not forget you are a Todd!"
She'd flounce out of the room—and so today
she got her way and married. No one knows
how she could choose *him* from her proper beaux.

He has no prospects. Any fool can see
he is a small town lawyer, nothing more.
His kin are poor white trash. Where would he be
without my cousin John? Above Speed's store,
he shared a free bed, took the Butlers' meals,
begged Cousin John to let him tote the books
and do the paper work.
There's none who feels
that he is suitable in breeding, looks,
fortune or education for a belle
of Louisville cotillions, who has grace
and manners learned from Mademoiselle Mentelle.
Where is the *noble* she saw in his face?
Why couldn't she love Douglas? Why, she went
and turned from one who may be president!

ULRICH TROUBETZKOY

MUIR

P. O. Box 159
Bardstown, Ky. 40004
July 20, 1981

Mrs. Mary Jane Hubler
The Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

Dear Mrs. Hubler:

When Mrs. Muir and I arrived in Bardstown on Saturday afternoon from the Frankfort, Indiana, home of our daughter, we stopped at the postoffice, and I was delighted to get your letter and copies of "Lincoln Lore" from May, 1979, to November, 1980, inclusive. That gives me a complete file from July, 1956, to November, 1980.

As I think I stated in my letter to Gerald, I am descended from James Graham who was one of the forty "Long Hunters" led into Kentucky by Col. James Knox in 1770. He hunted with Daniel Boone and after his marriage at Fort Pitt to Mary Worthington they came with the small George Rogers Clark party to settle at Corn Island (Louisville) on May 27, 1778.

Dr. Christopher C. Graham, son of James and Mary, saw Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks married; was their family doctor and gave braham his first book. Mother was born in 1881, and she sat on Uncle Christopher's lap as had young Lincoln years before. Dr. Graham was born in 1784 and died in 1885; Mother died in 1973.

Margaret, my wife, and daughter Ann worked on family lines at the library in Fort Wayne on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. Mother went into the D. A. R. on Lt. Peter Brown, aide-de-camp to Washington, and his father-in-law, Col. Andrew Beall. On the Beall family line we have Ninian Beall, Ninian Beall Edwards and Lincoln's Ninian Wirt Edwards.

Margaret, Mrs. Muir, worked at the Springfield, Ky., courthouse today and perhaps has additional information on her Berry and Shipley lines.

True--some of the charges at the Holiday Inn in Fort Wayne are a little high, but it is a good place to stay.

Thanks for the courtesies shown me when I was there and at other times.

Sincerely,

John W. Muir

John W. Muir

DORIS HARRIS

MAIL AUCTION SALE

NUMBER TWO

Closing Date - 17th March 1982 - 6:00 PM

Item No. 45 - FRANCIS SCOTT KEY

19 COWARD, Sir NOEL (1899-1973). English actor, playwright, composer. Full-face photo, 8" by 7¼", inscribed and signed on wide white lower margin. Overall size: 10" by 8". (110/130)

20 DISNEY, WALT (1901-1966). American producer of animated motion-picture cartoons. Creator of "Donald Duck," "Mickey Mouse," etc. Letter Signed, "Walt," 1 page, 4to, 16 July 1937. To Feg and Dorothy Murray in Avalon. On "Walt Disney" stationery.

Early personal letter stating "...it is going to be necessary for me to remain at the studio all day tomorrow, making it impossible to come over to the Island...I am enclosing some of the prints that we took last Sunday -- how do you like them?" (120/140)

21 DISNEY, WALT. Letter Signed "Walt Disney," 1 page, 4to, 15 December 1956. Minor pinholes at corners. To cartoonist Feg Murray. On "Walt Disney" letterhead.

"I am happy and honored to know that you are designating December 15, the last day of Class at the Carmel School of Art, as Walt Disney Day...Please extend to all the members of your Cartooning Class my best wishes for the Holidays, with the same to you and your family." (120/140)

22 EDWARDS, ELIZABETH TODD. Wife of Ninian Wirt Edwards; sister of Mary Todd Lincoln. Fifteen Autograph Letters Signed "Mother," 52 pages, 8vo, Andover and Geneseo, undated but some evidently 1860-61. To her daughter, Julia, and son-in-law, Edward Lewis Baker, editor of the Illinois State Journal.

Mary Todd first met Abraham Lincoln at the home of her sister, Elizabeth. There are important references to the Lincolns in these letters. On 20 May 1860: "...How gratified your Aunt Mary must feel at Mr. Lincoln's nomination. I do hope that her ambition may be fully satisfied in November next...." From Andover on 1 November: "...I presume your Aunt Mary is still alternating between hope and fear; and will scarcely be calmed after Mr. Lincoln's election which seems to be a thing decided upon...." On 27 November: "...I met Robert Lincoln unexpectedly when last in Boston -- he has grown very much and is particularly agreeable ...I have avoided to hint that I had a thought of taking Washington in my route home. It will be very agreeable, if I can so arrange it, to witness the inauguration -- but I am averse to fashionable crowds and although your Aunt Mary has cordially invited me -- yet she can well dispense with my company...." On February 10, she is mortified at Mary Lincoln's "..most singular and undignified conduct..."

Elizabeth describes life in Andover with her children, Livie and Charles, her husband's activities, her social life, etc., in addition to writing about her famous sister and brother-in-law.

Some fold-splitting and minor foxing; generally in very good condition and very legible.

An important contribution to the Family Portrait of Mary Todd Lincoln. (750/950)

23 EISENHOWER, DWIGHT D. (1890-1969) and MAMIE DOUD EISENHOWER (1896-1979). President of U. S. and First Lady. Letter Signed "D.E." on his gold "DDE" Gettysburg stationery, 1 page, 4to, Palm Desert, 26 March 1962. Social note, thanking his hostess: "... in fact the entire evening was perfect." Cover with frank printed in red. With Autograph Letter Signed of Mrs. Eisenhower, 4 pages, 16mo, 26 March 1962. Friendly letter of thanks for the same evening. With envelope. (100/120)

The State Journal-Register
Springfield, Illinois
Thursday, February 9, 1989
Page 15

Curator's talk to explore Edwards family and art

It will be a family occasion Tuesday at the Springfield Art Association.

Janice Broderick, curator of the corporate art collection of A.G. Edwards, will lecture on the collection at the association at 7:30 p.m.

Edwards Place, the home of the association, and the firm of A.G. Edwards are historically intertwined through a shared family tree. Albert G. Edwards, founder of the firm of A. G. Edwards and Sons, was the brother of Ninian Wirt Edwards and Benjamin Edwards, owner of Edwards Place. Their father, Ninian Edwards, was the first territorial governor and the third elected governor of Illinois.

Springfield is familiar with the role the Edwards family played in local history. The Edwards home was often the hub of the social, cultural and political events in Springfield. "Edwards Grove" was a perfect setting for rallies and political speeches. Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln were frequent visitors.

However, the history of Albert G. Edwards is not as well known to the city. But, as did his brothers, Albert led a fascinating life.

Albert was raised in Illinois. After graduating from West Point, he served for three years in the military with the Mounted Rangers south of St. Louis. Following this service, he married the daughter of a prominent St. Louis family. While his brothers were building their careers in Springfield, Albert was working for the firm of William L. Ewing in St. Louis.

The Civil War made a major change in Albert's career. Due to his association with Lincoln, his pro-Union leanings and his financial background, Lincoln appointed Albert as assistant Secretary of the Treasury for the sub-Treasury in St. Louis. It was one of Lincoln's last appointments. Six days later, he was assassinated. Albert Edwards held the post through five presidents, retiring in 1887.

Not content with retirement, Albert formed a partnership with his son Benjamin, thus forming the firm A.G. Edwards and Son. Over the next 100 years, the firm grew into a network of nearly 200 branches. Benjamin F. Edwards III, a fourth-generation descendant of its founder, is the present head of the firm.

A portrait of 2nd Lt. Albert Gallatin Edwards, 1st Mounted Dragoons, painted around 1835, artist unknown.

Art is important in the Edwards firm. The corporate collection has over 1,500 works of art. Among the list of noted artists are Karl Bodmer, George Catlin, Andy Warhol and Albert Bierstadt. In addition, there are hundreds of prints of documents relating to the history of the company and finance.

Broderick will focus on the history of the collection and the important place that photography holds within it.

Broderick holds BA and MA degrees from the University of Missouri. She was curator of special exhibits for the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, Gateway Arch and Old Courthouse in St. Louis. She is also a writer and filmmaker, and has been adjunct professor of media studies and gallery director for Webster University since 1984.

The lecture is being sponsored by the Michael Victor II Art Library, and it is open to the public. On Feb. 28, there will be a bus trip to St. Louis to visit the Edwards corporate headquarters to see the collection and also to visit the Eliot Porter Photography Exhibit at Washington University. For information on the bus trip, phone 523-2631.

Lincoln didn't sleep here

Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010 09:30 pm

Setting the record straight on Abraham Lincoln's ties to Edwards Place

By Erika Holst

No, Lincoln didn't sleep here. And, in the case of Edwards Place, the Springfield Art Association's antebellum Italianate mansion, Lincoln didn't court here. Abraham Lincoln actually called on Mary Todd at the home of her brother-in-law, Ninian W. Edwards, and married her there on Nov. 4, 1842. That house used to stand on South Second Street before it was torn down in 1918 to make way for the building later named the Howlett Building.

The big pink house on North Fourth Street that now bears the name Edwards Place was the home of Ninian's brother, Benjamin. And while it might not be the place where Lincoln courted Mary Todd, it does contain the sofa on which they sat during their courtship. Dubbed the "courting couch," it belonged to Ninian and Elizabeth Edwards and was one of a pair that stood in their double parlors when Abraham Lincoln came to call. The courting couch is just one attraction of a house that has a rich and interesting history –including ties to Abraham Lincoln –all its own.

Edwards Place holds the distinction of being the oldest house in Springfield on its original foundation. It was built in 1833 for Dr. Thomas Houghan. In 1843, Houghan sold the story-and-a-half brick house and 15 acres to Benjamin Edwards for $4,000. Benjamin made a $50,000 renovation to the house around 1857, enlarging it to its present 15 rooms.

Benjamin came from a prominent family. His father, Ninian, was territorial governor, senator, and governor of Illinois. His older brother, Albert Gallatin, was a merchant in St. Louis who went on to found the brokerage firm of A. G. Edwards. And his oldest brother, Ninian W., was a state politician and Springfield's social leader.

It was through his brother Ninian that Benjamin and Helen Edwards first met Mary Todd. Helen later recalled, "She greeted me with such warmth of manner…saying she knew we would be great friends and I must call her Mary. This bond of friendship was continued to the end of her life."

That bond only grew tighter when Mary married Abraham Lincoln. Benjamin and Helen Edwards were among the small number of guests who attended the Lincoln wedding, and Helen was one of the women who helped then seven-months-pregnant Elizabeth Todd Edwards prepare the wedding supper for her sister, Mary.

To modern eyes, Abraham Lincoln and Benjamin Edwards were only distantly connected through marriage: Lincoln's wife's sister was married to Benjamin's brother. Yet in Lincoln's view, according to his friend David Davis, "Ben was in the family."

Benjamin and Lincoln moved in the same professional circles. Benjamin, like Lincoln, was an attorney. In 1843 he formed a partnership with John T. Stuart, who had been Lincoln's partner until 1841. Lincoln and Benjamin would meet in the courtroom on more than 400 occasions, either as co-counsel or opposing attorneys. Both served as defense attorneys during the Anderson murder trial, made famous in Julie Fenster's The Case of Abraham Lincoln: A Story of Adultery, Murder, and the Making of a Great President.

The Edwardses and Lincolns also moved in the same social circles and were almost certainly guests at each other's houses. Both families were known to host parties during the winter when the legislature was in session, Springfield's high social season. Among the invitations received by Springfield's prominent families in February of 1857 were one in Benjamin's hand that read "Mr &Mrs. B. S. Edwards will be pleased to see you on Wedn: Eve. Feb. 4 1857 at 8 o'clock" and one in Lincoln's hand that read "Mr. &Mrs. Lincoln will be pleased to see you Thursday evening Feb. 5. at 8. o'clock." The Edwardses and Lincolns likely went to each other's parties; a few weeks later Mary Lincoln wrote to her sister, "Within the last three weeks, there has been a party, almost every night."

The one area where Lincoln and Edwards did not see eye to eye was politics. Although both men were Whigs until the party dissolved in the mid-1850s, Lincoln then cast his lot with the Republicans, and Edwards became a Democrat. During the 1858 contest for Senate, Stephen A. Douglas held a political rally at Edwards Place, while Lincoln addressed his own supporters later that day in the Capitol Building.

Today Edwards Place is open to the public Tuesdays –Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., with tours being offered on the hour. The house interprets mid-to-upper-class social and domestic life of 19th century Springfield, giving a window into the lifestyle that Lincoln aspired to and eventually attained. Visitors will see the parlors where Lincoln and other important men of his time were entertained; portraits of prominent 19th century Springfield citizens; a collection of stunning antique furnishings with ties to Springfield's best-known early families, and, of course, the courting couch.

Erika Holst is curator of collections for the Springfield Art Association and author of Wicked Springfield: Crime, Corruption &Scandal During the Lincoln Era.

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Edwards Place's interior to be renovated

By CHRIS DETTRO
THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER
Posted Jun 29, 2011 @ 10:56 PM
Last update Jun 30, 2011 @ 06:26 AM

Recommend Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

Edwards Place, the 178-year-old building that has housed the Springfield Art Association since 1914, will be taking on a new interior look — actually an old interior look — in conjunction with the association's centennial that begins next year.

Art association members and historical preservationists earlier this week heard recommendations from Anne Sullivan, principal of Sullivan Preservation in Chicago, on how to restore the inside of the home at 700 N. Fourth St. to its mid-1800s appearance.

Edwards Place is the oldest home in Springfield on its original foundation. Once a center of social activity in Springfield, the home saw prominent citizens and politicians such as Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas entertained at lavish dinner parties, while the grounds played host to many summer picnics and political rallies.

Sullivan and her team were commissioned by the art association to create a framework for future restoration of Edwards Place to a historically appropriate appearance, said Erika Holst, curator of collections for the art association.

Sullivan put the total cost of renovation at around $700,000, and Holst said the association will begin fundraising in conjunction with the centennial.

"A capital campaign will start with the centennial," she said. "Our target is to do it room by room."

She said Sullivan recommended the entryway be the first area restored because that's the first thing people see when they come into the house.

Edwards Place has 10 rooms and two hallway areas — one on each floor, Holst said.

Because of the many layers of history encompassed by Edwards Place since its construction in 1833, Sullivan recommended a broad era of interpretation.

The years from 1858 to 1876 were chosen in order to interpret the social connections between the Edwards and Lincoln families while capturing the alterations made to the home up to 1887, Holst said.

"The bulk of her presentation was presenting wallpaper, carpeting and interior wood finish samples," Holst said. A furniture layout and a conservation plan for the furnishings also were part of the study.

Holst said Sullivan's recommendations are largely for Rococo Revival designs, a style characterized by naturalistic motifs, asymmetry and light, fanciful designs.

"It's an appropriate choice based on what was known to be popular in Springfield in the mid-19th century and also based on what is known of Edwards family furniture and wallpaper selections," Holst said. Lincoln favored the same style in his own home.

Holst said Sullivan made an exception for the library by suggesting a Gothic Revival pattern that was typical of male, scholarly environments such as home libraries.

Sullivan also recommend committing space within the house — in the southeast bedroom, which has remained largely unchanged since the 1960s — to feature the Springfield Art Association and its development over the last century.

The home is furnished with Victorian furniture, including many pieces that belonged to the Edwards family. It also contains the "Lincoln Courting Couch" from the parlor of the Ninian Edwards home where Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd were married.

The study was funded by a $20,000 grant from the Jeffris Heartland Fund, administered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and matched by the art association.

In addition to Sullivan, the team doing the study consisted of historic-finishes specialist Robert Fitzgerald, who analyzed paint and wallpaper layers; and Craig Deller, a conservator who prepared condition reports and made suggestions for appropriate furniture use.
***

Preservation expert's report

Preservation expert Anne Sullivan in her report broke down the history of Edwards Place into six eras:
* The Pre-Edwards Era, 1833-43. Edwards Place would have been one of the first brick dwellings in Springfield and was occupied

by Dr. Thomas Houghan. The house represented Springfield's transition from a rural frontier community to a modern urban community.

* The First Edwards Era, 1843-58. Benjamin Edwards and his family would occupy the house for more than 60 years. Within a few years of moving in, Edwards put on a significant addition that likely included a kitchen as well as the four rooms on the east side of the house. This expansion reflected his status as a member of Springfield's social and professional elite.

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